श्री मोहम्मद अली अशरफ फातमी: सर, ऐसी कोई शिकायत अगर हम लोगों के पासी आती है तो उस पर हम लोग एक्शन लेते हैं। अब ऐसी बहुत कम शिकायतें आ रही हैं कि टीचर्स बच्चों को क्लास में मारते होंगे।

श्री सभापति: प्रश्न संख्या 62।

प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी: सर, यह बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट क्वेश्चन है।

श्री सभापति: आगे भी इम्पोर्टेंट है। उसमें मैं आपको अलाऊ करुंगा।

*62. [The questioner (Shri Tariq Anwar) was absent. For answer *vide* page 16 *infra*]

Drop-out rate of girl students

*63. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of girl students who drop out of schools at all levels is uniformly and significantly higher than that of boy students;

(b) whether Government have any scheme underway that seeks to rectify this anomaly;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(a) In 2003-04, the drop-out rates for girl students in the country as a whole at the primary stage (Classes I-V), at elementary stage (Classes I-VIII) and secondary stage (Classes I-X) were 28.6%, 52.9% and 64.9% respectively. At the primary stage, the drop-out rate for girls was lower than that of boys, whereas for elementary and secondary stages, they were higher than that of boys.

(b) to (d) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, a multi-pronged approach has been adopted for reducing drop-out rates. One set of interventions relates to strengthening of primary and upper primary schools and improving the

quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, annual school grants, regular training of teachers, introduction of good and innovative teaching practices that make class rooms more joyful and attractive regular academic support to teachers, etc. On the other hand, several interventions aim at improving the demand for schooling through community mobilization, special interventions for enrolment and retention of vulnerable groups of children including girls and children of weaker sections. Measures are also being undertaken to strengthen the accountability of the school system towards parents and the community. The Mid-Day Meal Scheme that provides a cooked meal to all children of Government and Government-aided primary schools, Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) Centres and Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) centers, also has the potential for promoting school enrolment and participation.

Free textbooks are provided to all girls and all SC and ST students up to the elementary stage. Under the National Programme for Education of Girls of the Elementary Level (NPEGEL), additional resources are provided to 3164 educationally backward blocks for interventions of community mobilization, bridge courses for out-of school girls, stregthening of model cluster schools, gender sensitization of teachers etc. to promote retention of girls in primary and upper primary schools. 1000 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) which are residential schools for girls at upper primary level, particularly for girls from disadvantaged sections of society, have been approved in the current year besides 1180 KGBVs sanctioned earlier in educationally backward blocks of the country.

As per a new Scholarship scheme introduced by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) from the academic session 2006-07, a girl who is the only child of her parents and who secures 60% or more marks in class X examination for the year 2006 onwards under CBSE system, would be given a scholarship of Rs. 500 per month for studying in classes XI and XII in a CBSE affiliated school which charges tution fee of not more than Rs. 1000 per month.

All Kendirya Vidayalayas provide fee waiver to single girl children from classes VI to XII.

In Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, one third of the seats are reserved for girls.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Sir, the Hon. Minister has given a long reply in which it has been mentioned that the drop out rate has gone up to 63 per cent, which is very alarming. Despite all the provisions in the scheme, I want to know from the Hon. Minister why the drop out rate is increasing in the case of girl students.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, the reasons for drop out rate vary. They could be socio-economic; they could also be school-related problems. When we look at the socio-economic reasons, these could be girl children, who are required to work in their households, their own businesses, their own farms and also could be asked to work outside for remuneration. When we look at the school-related factors, it could be accessibility of schools and it could also be the teacher problems that we have been just discussing about. But, Sir, measures have been taken to ensure that the schools are brought into close accessibility of the children. Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, we have ensured that schools are opened in each and every habitation. And, wherever there are no schools, we have ensured that EGS Centres and AIE Centres are also being opened. Besides this, we have also ensured, at least, we have framed the guidelines to such an extent that the 50 per cent of the teachers enrolled should be women so that the girls could be encouraged to come to school.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Yes, this is a major problem, Sir. Most of the parents are reluctant to send their girl children to the schools where only male teachers are available. Is there any special scheme the Government is envisaging to recruit more and more female teachers?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, as I have already mentioned earlier, the guidelines clearly say that the 50 per cent of the teachers enrolled, especially in the primary schools, should be woman teachers. So, it is up to the States to ensure that they enrol 50 per cent women teachers..

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: But, what is the status? Fifty per cent woman teachers are not there. Are you doing something to enforce this?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Whenever such things are brought to our notice, we do take it up with the concerned State Governments.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: धन्यवाद सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदया ने अपने दो पृष्ठ के लम्बे उत्तर में उन बहुत कारणों और वजुहात का जिक्र किया है, जिनके कारण लड़कियां स्कूल छोड़ देती हैं,

लेकिन एक बुनियादी कारण आपने छोड़ दिया है। पता नहीं आपको जानकारी है या नहीं, लड़कियों का स्कूल छोड़ने का बहुत बड़ा कारण है - स्कूलों में कन्या शौचालयों का न होना। कन्या विद्यालयों में भी कन्या शौचालय नहीं है और को-एजुकेशनल स्कूल्स में भी गर्ल्स के लिए सैपरेट टॉयलेट्स नहीं हैं। मैं व्यक्तिगत अनुभव से यह कह सकती हूं कि इस कारण से लड़कियां स्कूल छोड़ देती हैं या मां-बाप स्कूल से उनको उठा लेते हैं। इसलिए आप बाकी चाहे जितने उपाय कर लें, जब तक कन्याओं के लिए सैपरेट टॉयलेट्स, अलग से शौचालयों का प्रावधान हम स्कूलों मे नहीं करेंगे, आप इस ड्रॉप आउट रेट को घटा नहीं सकते। इसलिए मैं आपसे जानना चाहती हूं कि क्या अपनी इन तमाम योजनाओं में आप इसको शामिल करेंगे कि कन्याओं के लिए अलग शौचालयों का प्रावधान हर स्कूल में होना चाहिए - चाहे वह गर्ल्स स्कूल है या को-एजुकेशनल स्कूल।

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, in the allocations that have been made towards Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, 33 per cent of the allocation is towards creation of infrastructure. Even in infrastructure, provision of toilets has been awarded very high priority. Today, in about 34 to 35 per cent of schools, we have ensured that toilets separately for girls have been constructed. We are also working in convergence with the Rural Development Ministry to ensure that under the Total Sanitation Scheme, toilets are being provided for girls.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I believe this question of drop-outs is very closely linked to the absence of the right to education as a fundamental right which was assured by this UPA Government in its Common Minimum Programme, including the allocation of six per cent of the GDP for education, particularly in the primary and the secondary sector. As the Cabinet Minister is present here — he will recall that in the last session of Parliament I had raised this issue and there was no reply forthcoming — my question to the Minister is: When the CABE has recommended the right to education legislation and the UPA Government's Common Minimum Programme has assured the right to education legislation, what is keeping the Government back? And why has the Government withdrawn its responsibility for this and put it on the States? This is the issue, because that is the only way, Sir, in which girl drop-outs can be stopped.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him reply.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: ...the right to education is given.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member is aware of the reasons which I have explained earlier. This matter certainly finds importance in

the CMP and also in the programme of the Government. But it was realised that unless the States also come forward to share the burden, perhaps alone it cannot be borne by the Centre, and that is the main reason. I am saying it without any prevarication that we thought that the States should be equal partners and that is why a scheme was launched and States have been asked; many States have joined, others have not. But unless the States fully join in this to ensure this, especially in the case of the financial outlay, perhaps it is very difficult.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, they are going back from what their commitment is. This is the commitment of the Common Minimum Programme that they are going to give right to education. This is one of the greatest assaults. How can you say that the Central Government is not going to take the main responsibility for this? How is it going to be discussed? (*Interruptions*) Sir, the NDA Government had brought a Bill and that Bill was discussed in the CABE. The CABE has discussed it, and they have rejected that. And now they are putting it on the States. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Sir, in Uttar Pradesh, to give incentives to girls, who come from backward and poor families, to complete their education, especially in the rural areas, we have started Kanya Vidya Dhan Scheme under which Rs. 20,000 are given to every girl, cutting across the religious and caste lines, whenever she completes intermediate. This Scheme has helped a lot in stopping this drop-out rate of girls. I want to know whether the Central Government has learned anything from this Scheme. Are they going to implement this Scheme at a broader level across the country?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, various States have implemented programmes giving good initiative to ensure that girl children go to school. Uttar Pradesh, for example, has launched its Meena Manch. Haryana has provided bicycles to girl children who are studying in Class-VI. Similarly, Orissa has the Kalasi Dhara Scheme launched. Bihar has the Summer Camp which actually conduct remedial classes. Puducherry also has a good intervention for girl education. But other than this, Sir, I think if the State Governments could come out with innovative schemes like this to ensure that the girl children come to school, this would be very encouraging. Besides this, even in the secondary level of education also, under the CBSE Scheme, various initiatives have been launched by the

Government of India, especially scholarships have been provided to girls who are studying in the 10th Standard. If they secure 60 per cent marks or above, then to encourage them to further continue and pursue their studies in Classes XI and XII, they are awarded scholarships of Rs. 500 per month. And this child should be the only child to the parent. Similarly, Sir, two other scholarships schemes have also been launched by CBSE. One is for the undergraduate students. Five hundred scholarships are awarded at the rate of, say, Rs. 500 a month. This is to ensure that children who have secured good pass percentage in the exams continue and pursue their exams even during the degree. This is continued for three years. Again, Sir, in the other scholarships scheme, 350 scholarships are awarded to those children who have secured good marks in the All India Engineering Entrance Examination, that is, AIEEE and also the All India Pre-Medical Test. One hundred and fifty scholarships are given to them. They are awarded Rs. 1,000 each and these are the various incentives undertaken. Other than this, Sir, there is also another new incentive which is under formulation by the Government of India in accordance with the announcement made by the Finance Minister. Under this scheme, Rs. 3,000 would be deposited in the name of the girl child studying in Class IX and this money could be withdrawn when the girl attains the age of 18 years. These are the various initiatives undertaken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Shobhana Bhartia.

श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी: सर, सर, ...(व्यवधान)...

†[شری شاہد صدیقی : سر، سر، ...(مداخلت)...

श्री सभापति: अभी आप ठहर जाइए, यह क्वेश्चन कम्पलीट हो जाए, यह क्वेश्चन कम्पलीट हो जाए।

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Thank you, Sir. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the recently released UNESCO report which actually puts India right at the bottom of the pile. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether it is correct that India fares only better than Yemen and Iraq; and in terms of gender disparity, we are right at the bottom of the heap. If this is true, what steps is the Government proposing to take? Because after so much money having been spent through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, there is over 40 per cent drop-out at the middle level. What are the steps that the Government proposes to take?

†[ ]Transliteration of Urdu Script.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, in the same report, UNESCO has also shown India as a country which displays ownership to the education policies that India has been implementing. So, this is definitely commendable because the same report aslo compliments India on its efforts. Sir, all efforts are being ensured to see that gender parity is achieved and that all our programmes are guided towards ensuring that girl children dropout is reduced and this by itself, speaks for it that we are sincerely trying to attain the gender parity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Viplove Thakur.

श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी: सर, सर, ...(व्यवधान)...

†[شری شاہد صدیقی : سر، سر، ..(مداخلت)..]

श्री सभापति: एक मिनट, एक मिनट। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर: मुझे बोलने दीजिए। आप लोग बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... माननीय सभापति जी, मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूं, ...(व्यवधान)... मुझे बोलने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: This House should protect India's federal structure. It is the primary duty of this House. (*Interruptions*)

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर: माननीय सभापति जी, मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूं, ...(व्यवधान)... मुझे बोलने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: The primary duty of Rajya Sabha is to give protection to the States. This is the primary job of this House and you have to fulfil this. Every Member of Rajya Sabha should stand with us. (*Interruptions*)

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर: माननीय सभापति जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूं कि क्या वे यह बताएंगे, ...(व्यवधान)... बोलने दीजिए, आप लोग बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... बोलने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... मुझे सवाल पूछने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... आप सवाल पूछने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... सवाल पूछने दीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: एक मिनट, सुन लीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)... एक मिनट सुन लीजिए, बोलने दो। ...(व्यवधान)...

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†[ ]Transliteration of Urdu Script.

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेश पचौरी): गृह राज्य मंत्री उनके तथाकथित वक्तव्य का वैसे ही खंडन कर चुके हैं, लेकिन फिर भी यदि आपका निर्देशन होगा तो वे इस सदन में आकर ...(व्यवधान)... इस बात का स्पष्टीकरण देंगे। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप सुनिए, सुनिए, ...(व्यवधान)... आप सुनिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सुरेश पचौरी: लेकिन फिर भी यदि आप इसका अनावश्यक रूप से राजनीतिकरण करेंगे तो ...(व्यवधान)... यह प्रश्नकाल में ठीक नहीं होगा। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: एक मिनट। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सुरेश पचौरी: जब भी गृह राज्य मंत्री यहां सदन पर आएंगे, वे इस चीज को स्पष्ट कर देंगे। ...(व्यवधान)...

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Scheme for girl education

*62. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any special scheme/project for girl education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the districts which are covered under this scheme, especially in Bihar and Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) At the elementary stage of education, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) and the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) programmes are the principal programmes to address girls education. The SSA covers all districts of the country while the NPEGEL and KGBV programmes are focused on Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) in the country. All eligible EBBs in Bihar and Maharashtra have been covered under the NPEGEL programme and 128 EBBs in Bihar and 27 in Maharashtra, under the KGBV scheme.

At the higher secondary level, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has a scholarship scheme for the meritorious single girl child studying in schools affiliated to it.